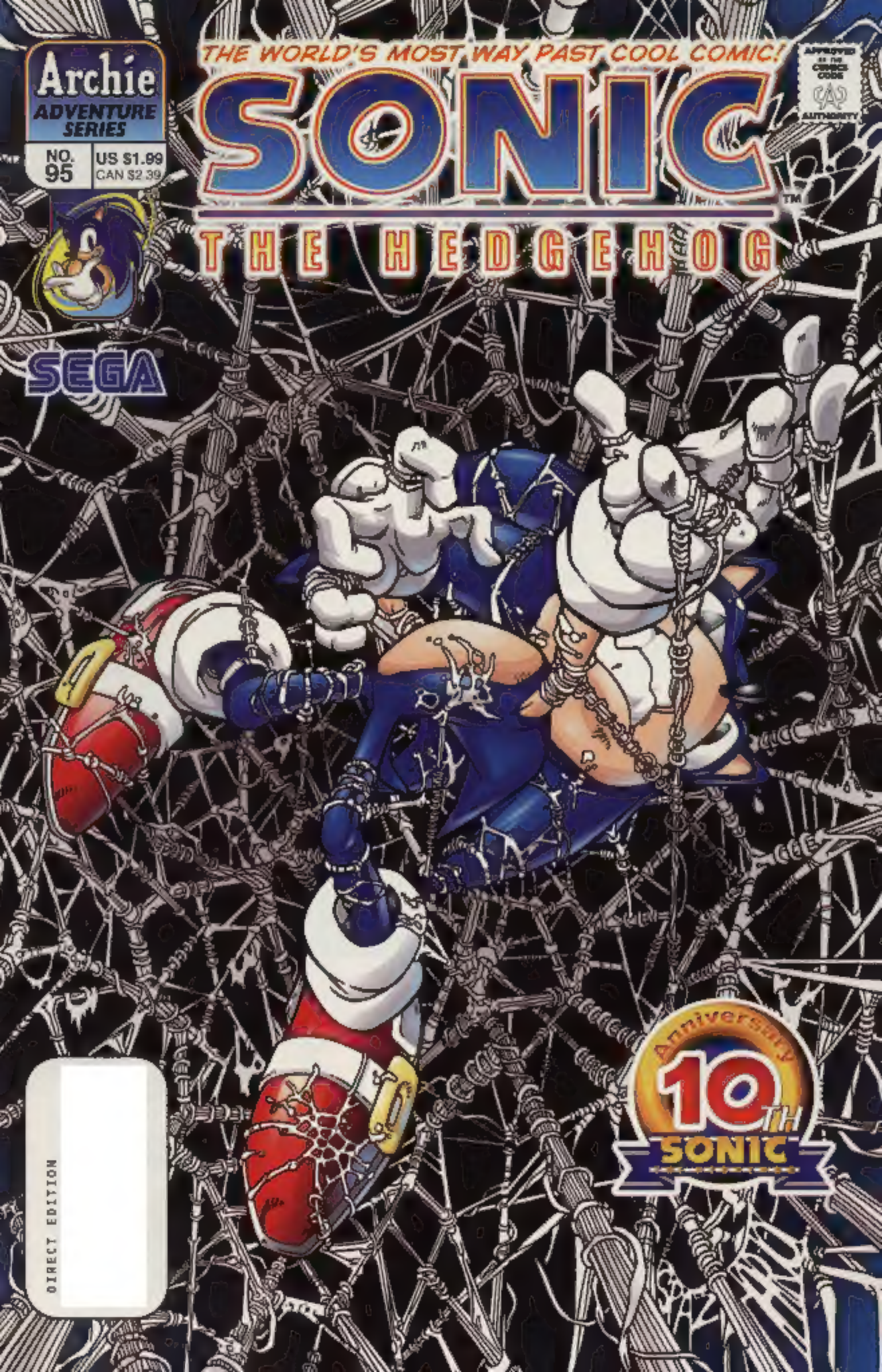
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NO. 95
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THE WORLD'S MOST WAY PAST COOL COMIC!
SONIC
THE HEDGEHOG
SEGA
Anniversary
10TH
SONIC
DIRECT EDITION

After ten long years, the iron-fisted rule of DOCTOR ROBOTNIK over planet MOBIUS was believed to have finally ended! With the technological tyrant vanquished and his polluted factories shut down, order and beauty were restored to the city of MOBOTROPOLIS. Now the villain has returned to wreak havoc once more, but there are many who are willing to stand against him in the fight for freedom. The bravest among them is a brash, blue streak who just happens to be the fastest thing alive! ARCHIE COMICS AND SEGA PRESENT... SONIC THE HEDGEHOG!

SCHOOL WAS OUT, AND EVEN THOUGH WE DIDN'T BELIEVE IT...

ENEMY MINE

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WRITER

FRY
PENCILS

JEFF POWELL
LETTERER

PAM EKLUND & JIM AMASH
INKERS

FRANK GAGLIARDO
COLORIST

VICTOR GORELICK
MANAGING EDITOR

RICHARD GOLDWATER
EDITOR IN CHIEF

J.F. GABRIE
EDITOR/ ART DIRECTOR

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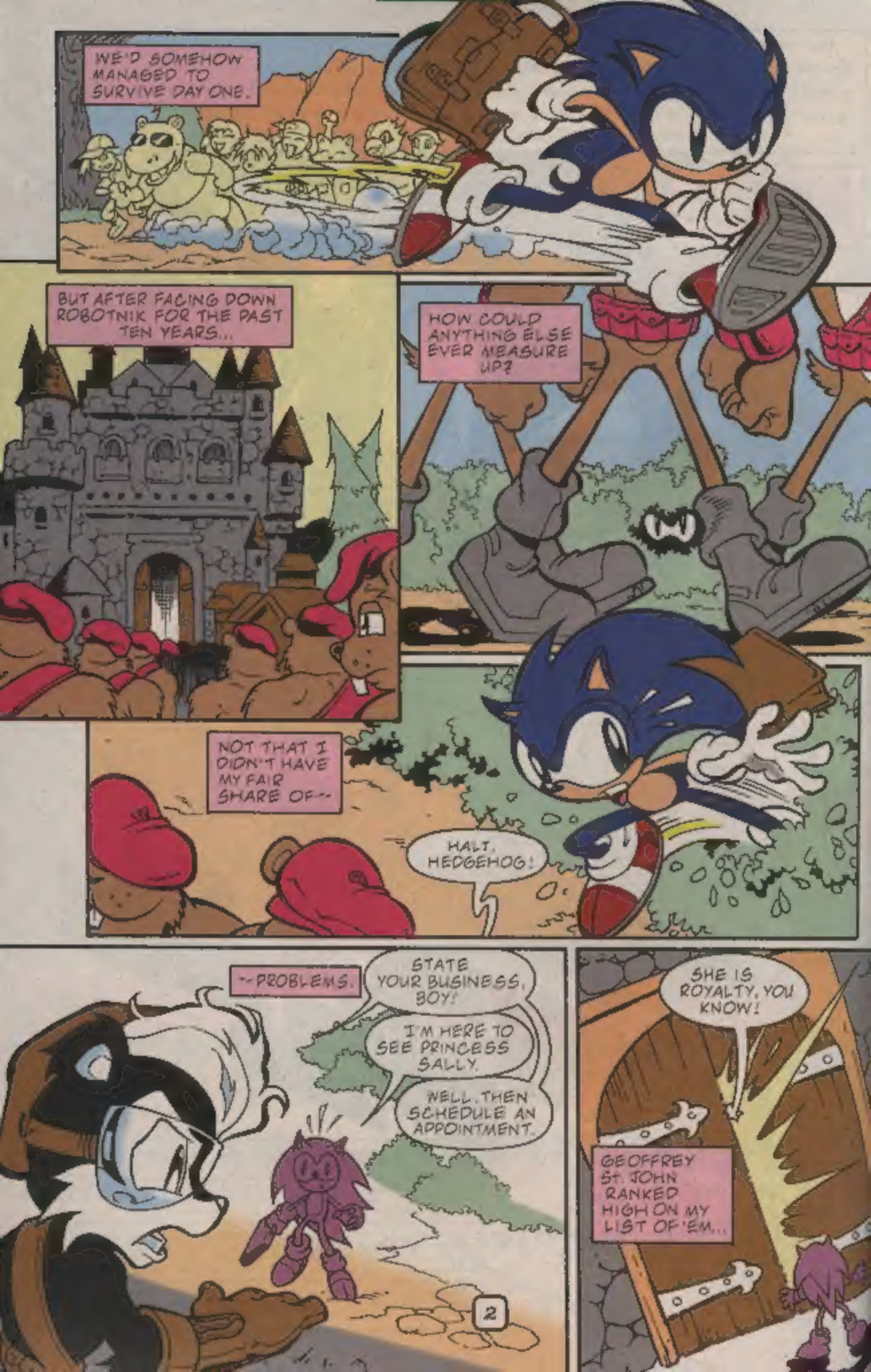

WE'D SOMEHOW MANAGED TO SURVIVE DAY ONE.
BUT AFTER FACING DOWN ROBOTNIK FOR THE PAST TEN YEARS...
HOW COULD ANYTHING ELSE EVER MEASURE UP?
NOT THAT I DIDN'T HAVE MY FAIR SHARE OF--
HALT, HEDGEHOG!
--PROBLEMS.
STATE YOUR BUSINESS, BOY!
I'M HERE TO SEE PRINCESS SALLY.
WELL, THEN SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT.
SHE IS ROYALTY, YOU KNOW!
GEOFFREY St. JOHN RANKED HIGH ON MY LIST OF 'EM...

...BUT THE EGGMAN STILL HELD THE TOP-SPOT.

WHAT? I DON'T BELIEVE IT!

WHADDYA KNOW, BRO? YOU CALLED IT!

THAT CURFEW-BREAKER WAS MY IRASCIBLE NEPHEW!

SNIVELY! IT'S BEEN OVER TEN YEARS, SON! HOW'VE YOU BEEN?

AS WELL AS CAN BE EXPECTED, FATHER!

THIS IS LADY AGNES MY MOTHER-IN-LAW, AND YOUR STEPSISTER--

I KNOW HOPE. UNCLE JULIAN HAS ALREADY BRIEFED ME.

SON, WHAT ON MOBIUS HAPPENED TO YOUR HAIR?

MALE PATTERN BALDNESS--ONLY AFFECTS THE FAMILY INTELLECTUALS. YOU KNOW...

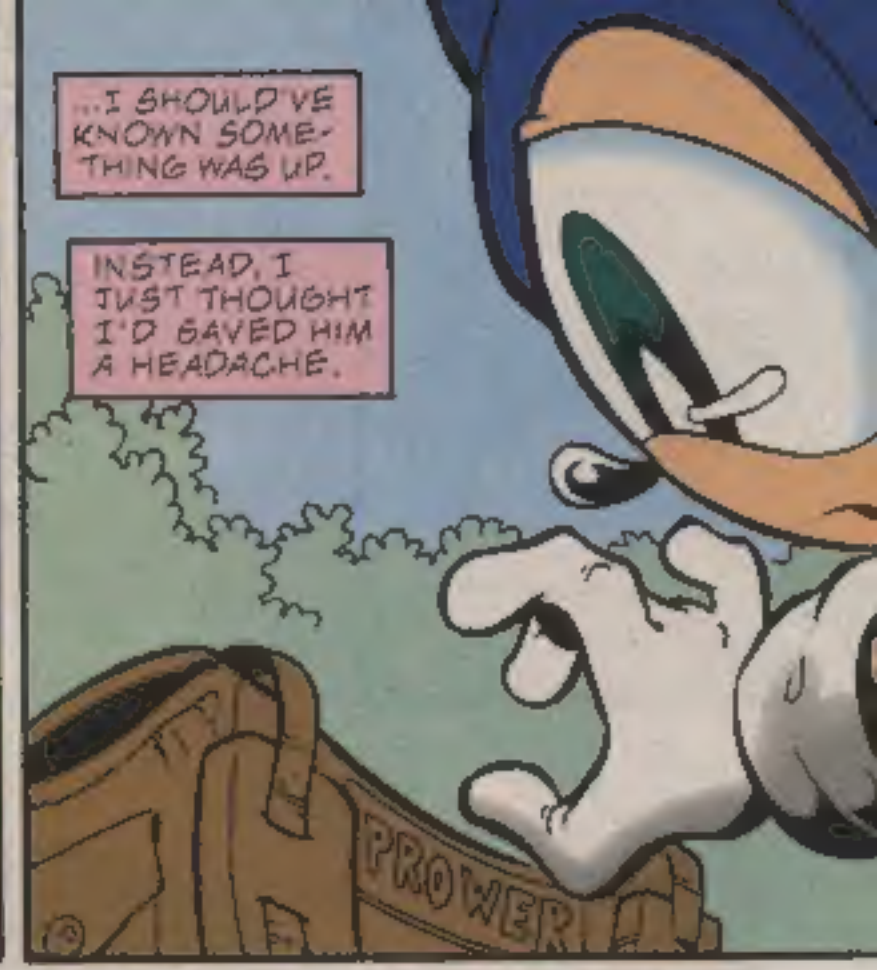
A FEW BLOCKS AWAY...

EEEEEEK!

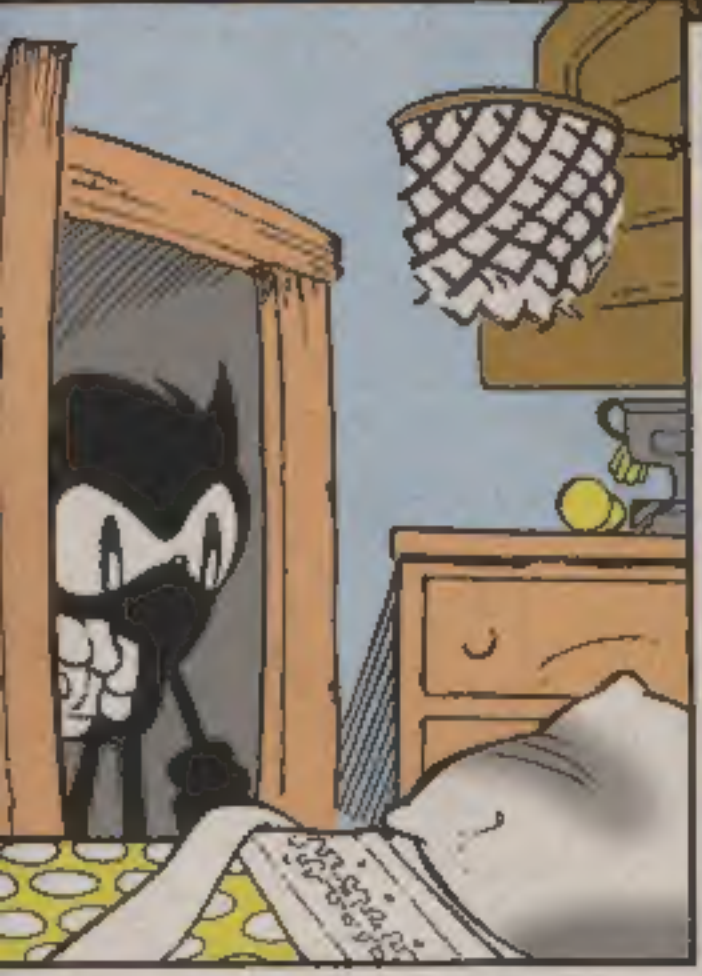
RRAAARRGHH! THE SWORD--WHERE IS IT?! LOST ITS SCENT!!

BIO-DESIGNATE: CARNIVORE/UNKNOWN --DESIST AND SURRENDER.
RAARGH?
RAAARGH!
KODOS.
CALLING ALL PROTECTOR-BOTS WITHIN GRID-SECTION R-37--
--SHOW OUR VISITOR THAT ROBOTROPOLIS HAS A NO-FUR POLICY!
IT FLED THE CITY!
HOORAY FOR LORD JULIAN!

LOOKING BACK, WHEN I FOUND TAILS' BOOKBAG AND NO SIGN O' TAILS...


...I SHOULD'VE KNOWN SOMETHING WAS UP.
INSTEAD, I JUST THOUGHT I'D SAVED HIM A HEADACHE.
PROWER

HEY THERE, SON! HOW WAS SCHOOL?
EDUCATIONAL.



I REALLY LEARNED SOMETHING NEW TODAY...

...AND THE NIGHT WAS STILL YOUNG...
MUCH AS I HATED SNEAKING AROUND...
...I HAD NO CHOICE EVER SINCE PRINCE ELIAS RESTRICTED ME TO KNOTHOLE
AIN'T IT PAST YOUR BEDTIME? WHAT'RE YA DOIN'?
BUNNIE!
I'M STAGING A RESCUE MISSION TO SAVE THOSE OVERLANDERS WHO CRASH-LANDED FROM ROBOTNIK OR HE'LL ROBOTICIZ 'EM!
THAT'S DOWNRIGHT KUH-RAYZEE, SUGAH! 'NUFF TO WARRANT YA SOME SERIOUS BACK-UP-- WELL, HERE AH AM!

I HAD NO BEEF--BUNNIE COULD HANDLE HERSELF. SHE WAS PRETTY MUCH BIONIC, NO THANKS TO "BUTT"NIK.
ME? I HAD MY SPEED.
WHAT'RE THOSE LIGHTS UP AHEAD?
AT FIRST WE WONDERED...
...BUT AFTER SHE GAVE ME THE AERIAL TOUR...
...WE BOTH KNEW WHAT WAS UP, THOUGH IT DIDN'T COMPUTE.
ZZZZZZZ
OVAHLANDUHS'RE ALL UP IN HERE--REAL COZY-LIKE, TOO.
WHY HAVEN'T THEY BEEN TURNED INTO ROBOT-SLAVES?

BUNNIE THOUGHT THE DOC HAD GONE SOFT.

YEAH, AND SALLY'S GONNA START DATIN' GEOFFREY.

NO CALL FER SASS.

THEN WE HEARD SOMETHING UP AHEAD.

SOUNDED LIKE A TREE FALLING! I'LL BET ROBOTNIK'S INVOLVED!

BOY, YOU SURE HATE 'IM, HUH?

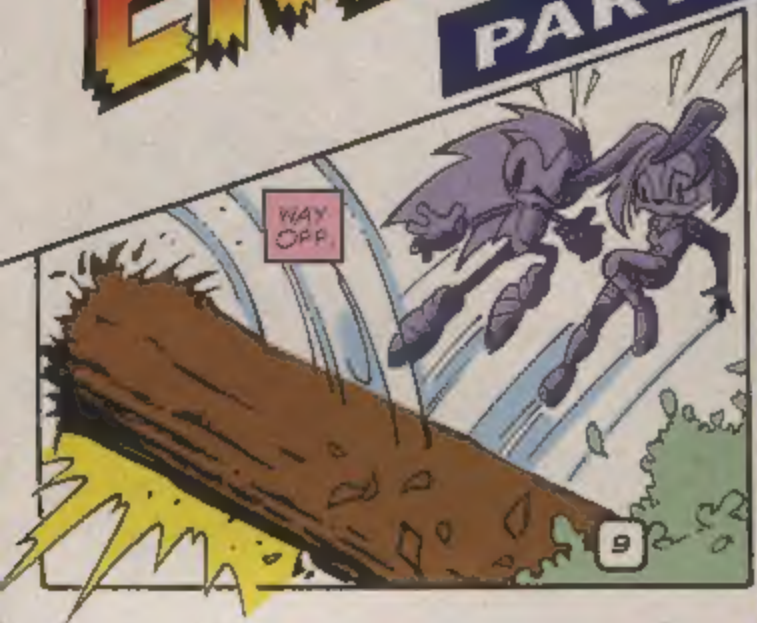
DON'T GET ME STARTED.

BUT I WAS WAY OFF BASE.

RAAARGHH! SO-WUUUURD!

ENEMY MINE

PART TWO

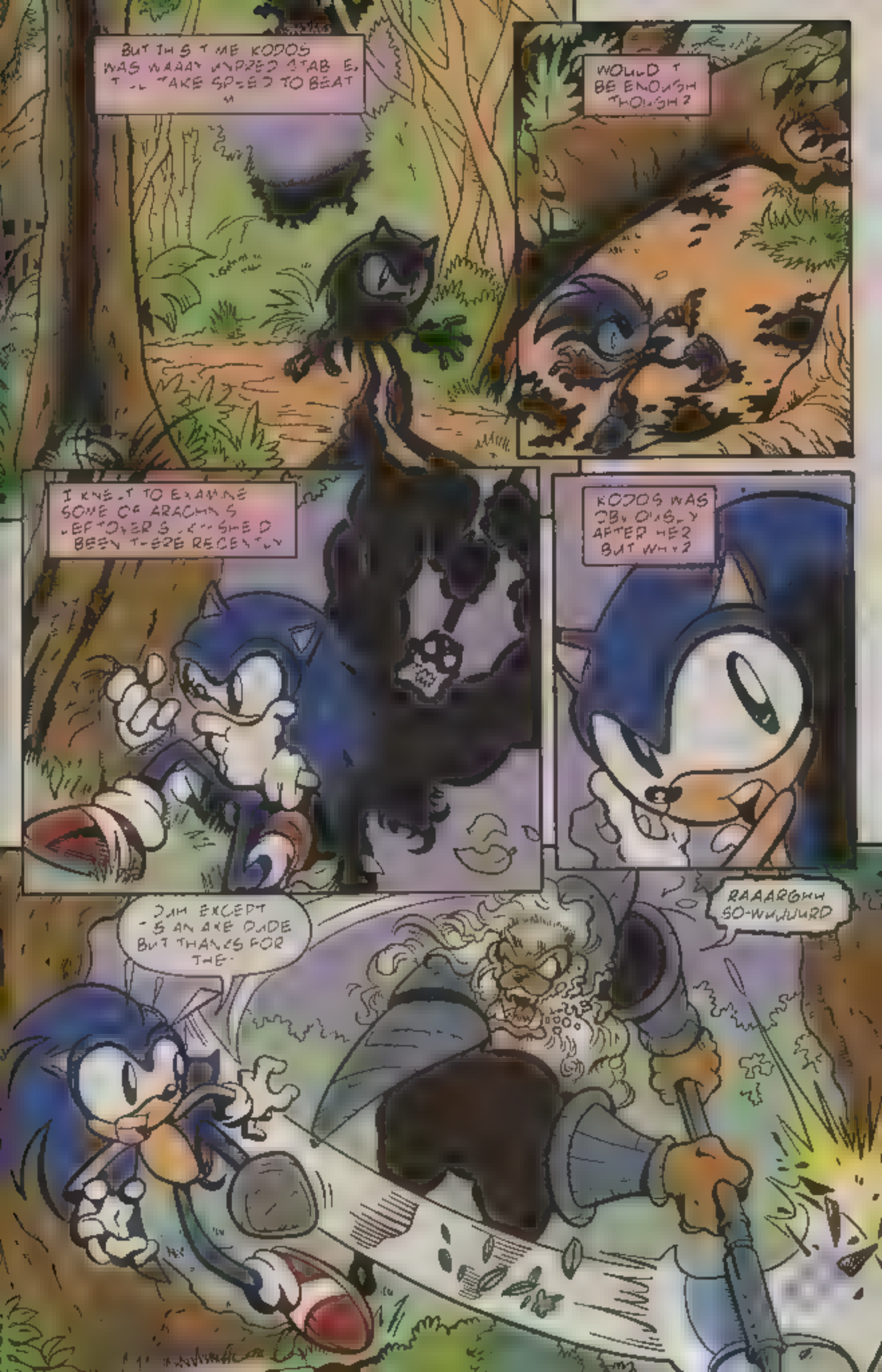


THE DAY HAS BEEN PRETTY TIGHT
YOU WOULD WISH I REQUESTED MY PRESENCE SIR?
YES I'M SURE YOU'VE WONDERED WHY I HAVEN'T ROBOT-ZED EVERYONE IN THE CITY YET
THE THOUGHT DID CROSS MY MIND BEFORE I WENT TO BED
WELL WISE NO LONGER, BEHOLD
DON'T YOU AGREE THAT THIS WILL BE A FAR MORE INNOVATIVE USE FOR OUR OVERLY EXTENDED FAN LIST?
IT'S GENIUS SIR SIMPLY GENIUS
THERE THERE I KNOW I KNOW.

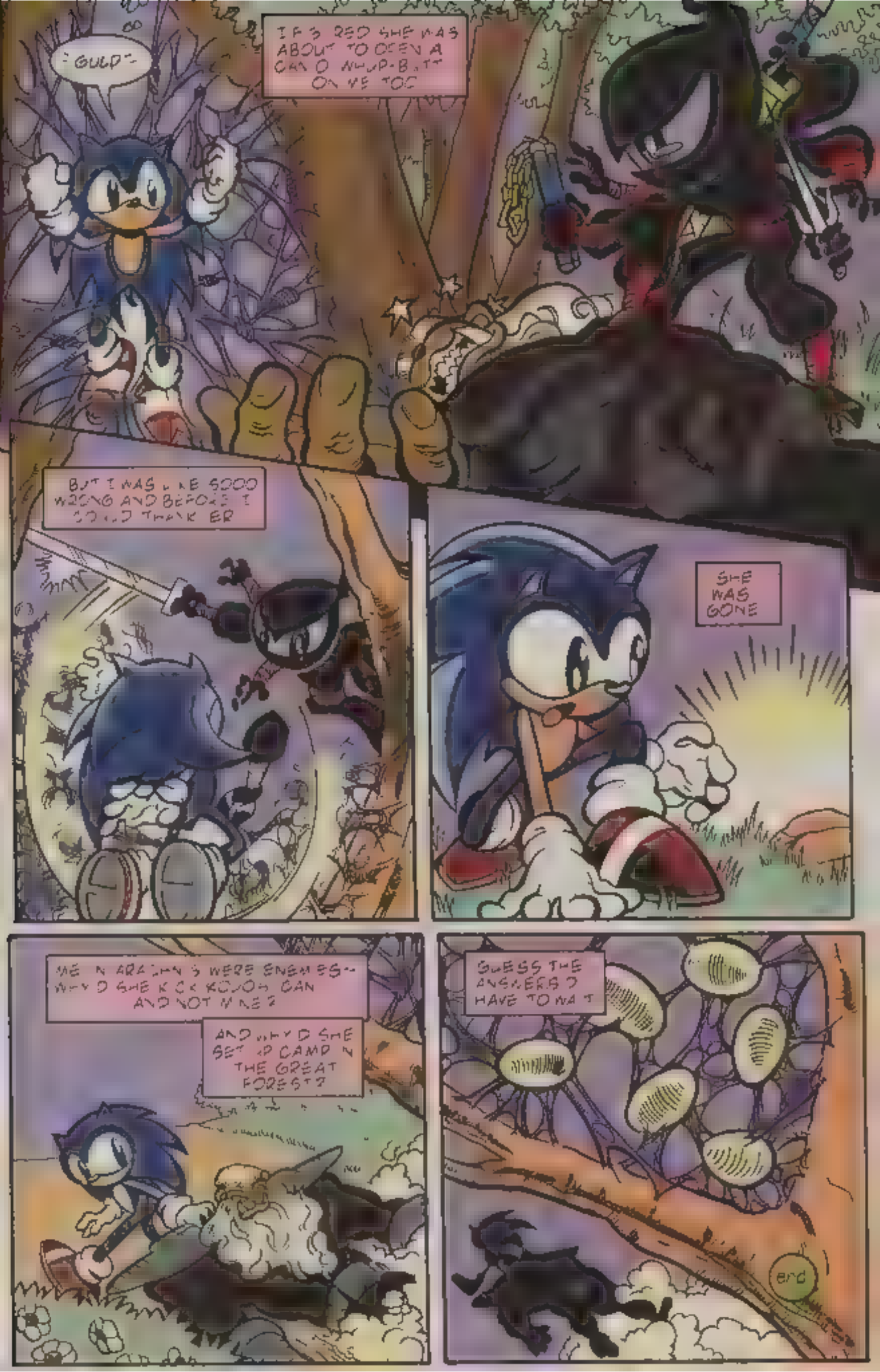
GRANMAZ
HOPE WHAT S WRONG?
I M FRIGHTENED
OF WHAT SWEETHEART?
WELL I WAS EXPLORING EARLIER AND I THINK I SAW AN ANIMAL ONLY IT LOOKED LIKE A BOT
ARE YOU CERTAIN CHILD?
YES
DON T WORRY JUST GET SOME REST I M SURE YOUR UNCLE JULIAN HAS AN EXPLANATION
HE HAS TO

COULDN'T BLAME ARACHNIS FOR BEING ON THE OUTS WITH KODOS SINCE HE WAS ALWAYS A BIT OF A PSYCHO
BUT NOW HE HAD TURNED INTO A TOTAL NUT JOB
RAAARR--
AH M NO DOCTAH BUT AH THINK THIS ONES FLOWN OUTAH THE CUCKOOS NES--
--WHA?
FLOWN BUT NOT TOO FAR-- HE PRETENDED TO BE OUT COLD SO AS TO GET THE JUMP ON BUNNIE
RAAARGHH.
IT WAS LIKE SEEING KING NAXX ALL OVER AGAIN

EXCEPT...DO I VENTOR SHES BONCR
SO-WAAARDZ
THAT'S T BACK TO KNOTHOLE I'LL HANDLE THIS
NO WAY MACHO HOG
GO!
SHOULDN'T HAVE BUGGED OUT ON BUNNIE LIKE THAT


BUT THIS TIME KODOS WAS WAAAY INPRED ATABLE. I'LL TAKE SPEED TO BEAT IT
WOULD IT BE ENOUGH THOUGH?
I KNEW I TO EXAMINE SOME OF ARACHNIS LEFTOVERS. IT SEEMED BEEN THERE RECENTLY
KODOS WAS OBVIOUSLY AFTER HER BUT WHY?
DAM EXCEPT THIS AN ARE DUDE BUT THANKS FOR THE-
RAAARGHH SO-WWWWURD

BUT I'D SPOKEN TOO SOON
WHAT THE--?
RAAARGHH
IT WAS HARD TO BELIEVE IT WAS GONNA END THAT WAY
RAAARGHH?
BUT THANKS TO ARACHNIS IT DIDN'T
OH MAN
THAT'S GOTTA HURT.
POW
BIFF
CHUD
SMAK
KLOK


-GULP-
IF S RED SHE WAS ABOUT TO OPEN A CAN O WHUP-BUTT ON ME TOO
BUT I WAS LIKE SOOO WRONG AND BEFORE I COULD THANK ER
SHE WAS GONE
ME N ARACHN S WERE ENEMIES-- WHY D SHE KICK KOJOH OUT AND NOT ME?
AND WHY D SHE SET UP CAMP N THE GREAT FOREST?
GUESS THE ANSWERS D HAVE TO WAIT
end

Born to the most noble of Echidna houses, the latest to continue the family heritage and responsibility as Guardian of The Floating Island, defender of all against the forces of evil from the world beyond as well as those who would threaten from within!
ARCHIE COMICS AND SEGA PRESENT... KNUCKLES THE ECHIDNA!

ON A LONELY MOUNTAINTOP ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE WORLD, WE FIND KNUCKLES

WONDERING WHAT HE HAS DONE TO DESERVE THIS--

HAVING SUFFERED THE LOSS OF HIS FAMILY AND FRIENDS, HE HAS EVOLVED INTO SOMETHING--DIFFERENT--

--AND NOW FEELS AS IF HE IS GOING INTO OVERLOAD...

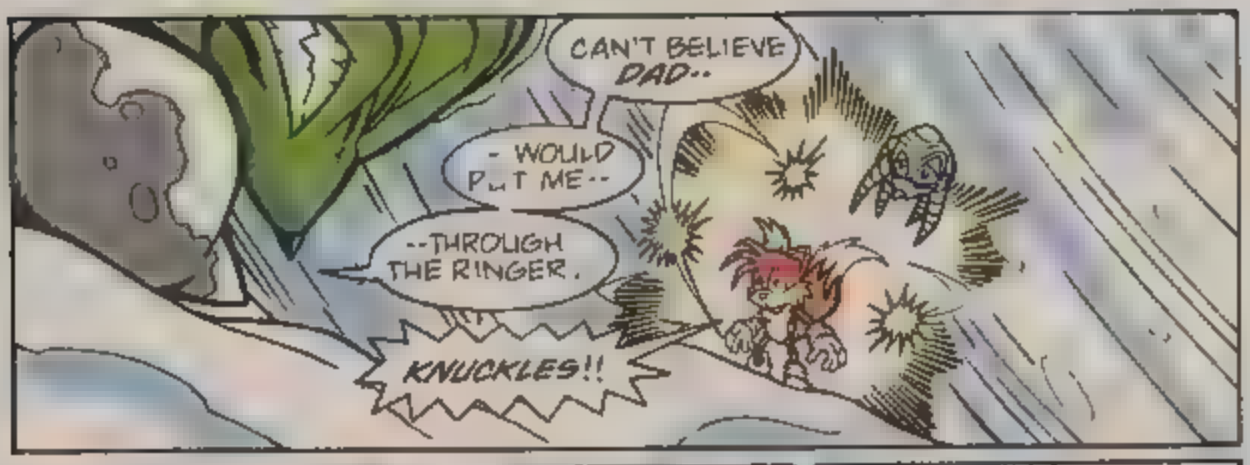
MY INSIDES!!!

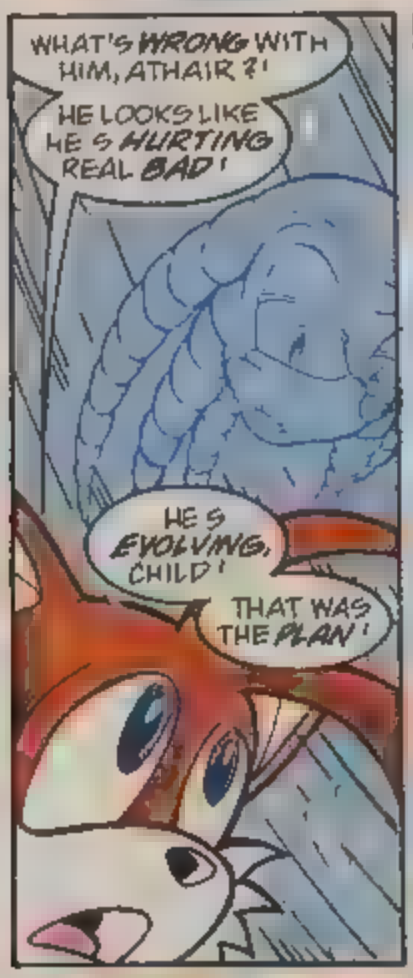
TEARING ME APART--!!

WISH I KNEW-- WHAT'S HAPPENING TO ME--!!!

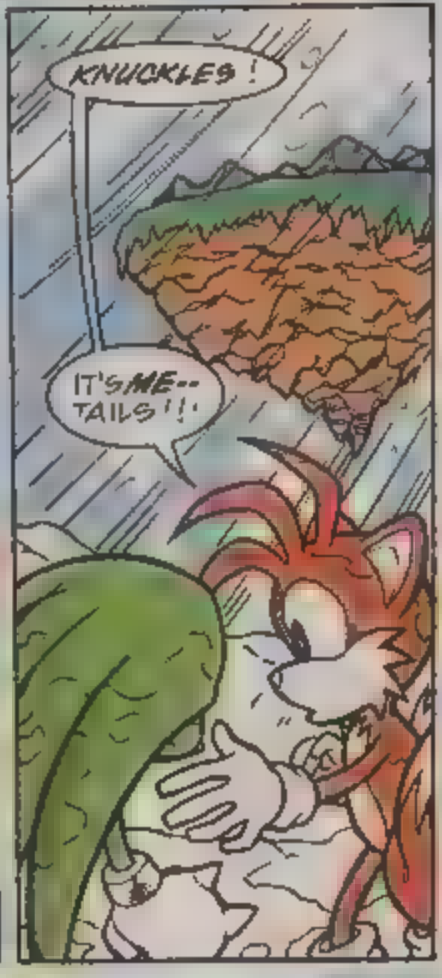
WHEN DESTINY CALLS

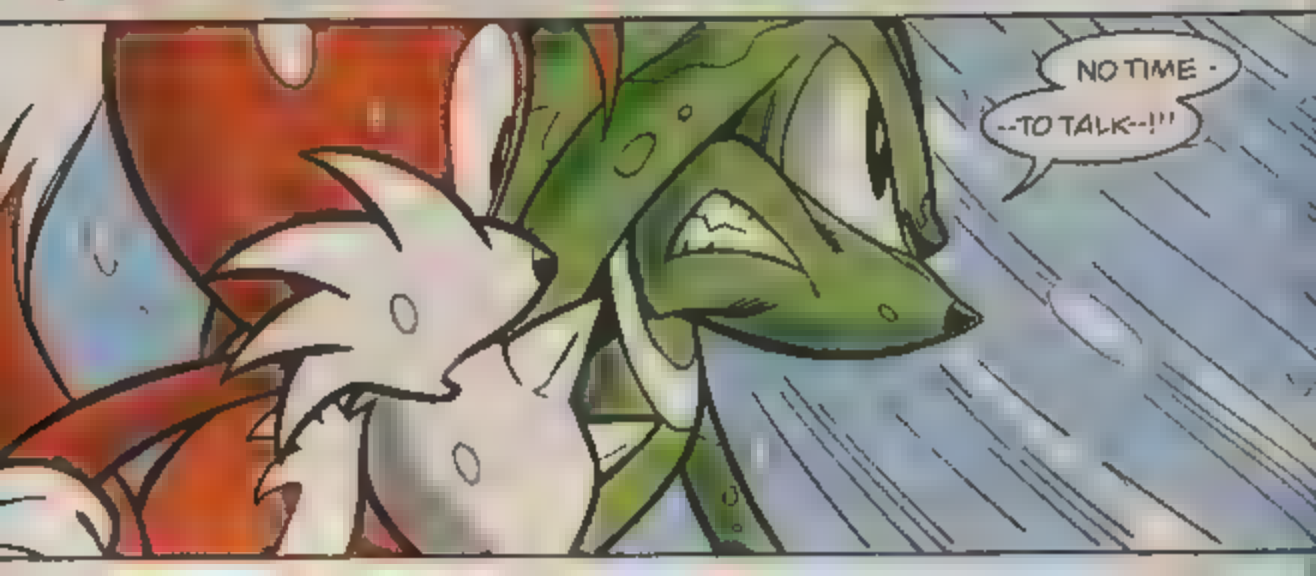
Another Sega-Inspired Story By
KEN PENDERS (Writer & Inker)
RON LIM (Penciller)
VICKIE WILLIAMS (Letterer)
FRANK GAGLIARDO (Colorist)
JUSTIN GABRIE (Editor)


CAN'T BELIEVE DAD..
- WOULD PUT ME--
--THROUGH THE RINGER.
KNUCKLES!!


WHAT'S WRONG WITH HIM, ATHAIR?!
HE LOOKS LIKE HE'S HURTING REAL BAD!
HE'S EVOLVING, CHILD!
THAT WAS THE PLAN!

PLAN?!!
WHY WOULD ANYONE PLAN TO INTENTIONALLY HURT SOMEONE?


KNUCKLES!
IT'S ME-- TAILS!!


NO TIME -
--TO TALK--!!

BEFORE THE YOUNG FOX CAN REACT, THE PAIN-WRACKED ECHIDNA UNLEASHES A TIDAL WAVE OF RAW ENERGY FROM WITHIN HIS VERY BEING...

DON'T WORRY, CHILD!

I'LL PROTECT YOU!

AWRRRGHHHH!!!

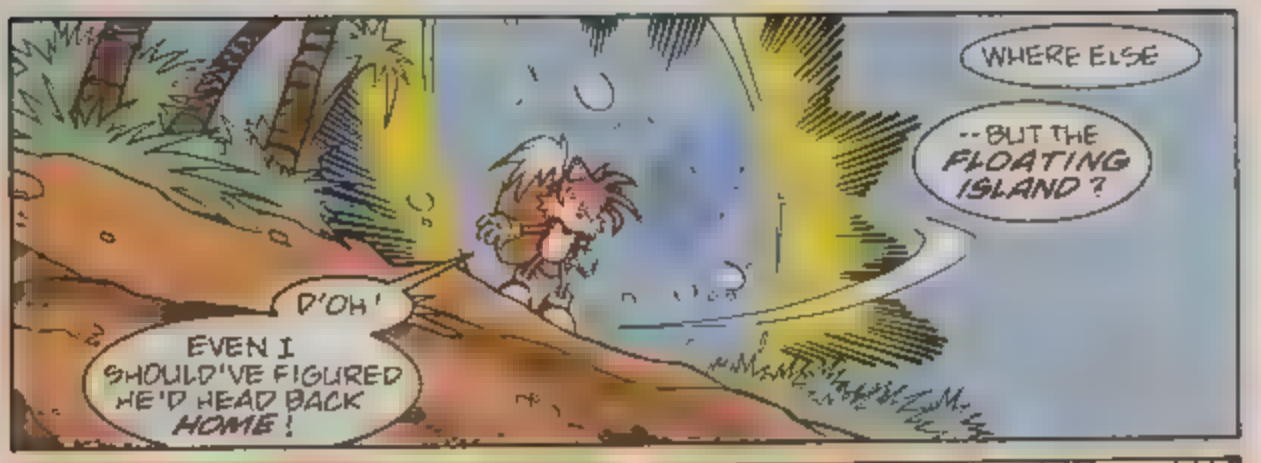
BUT WHAT ABOUT KNUCKLES?!!

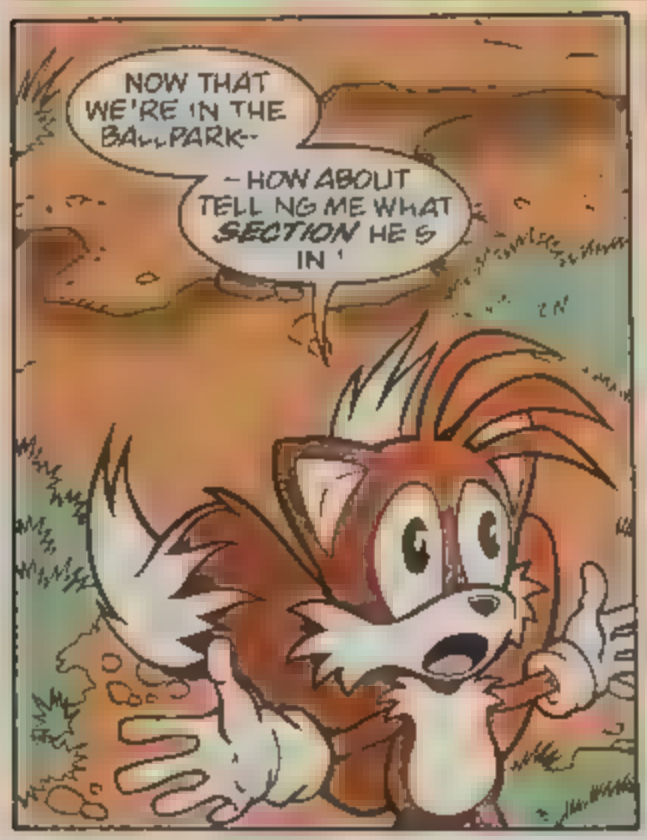
WORRY NOT FOR H.M. BUT RATHER YOURSELF!

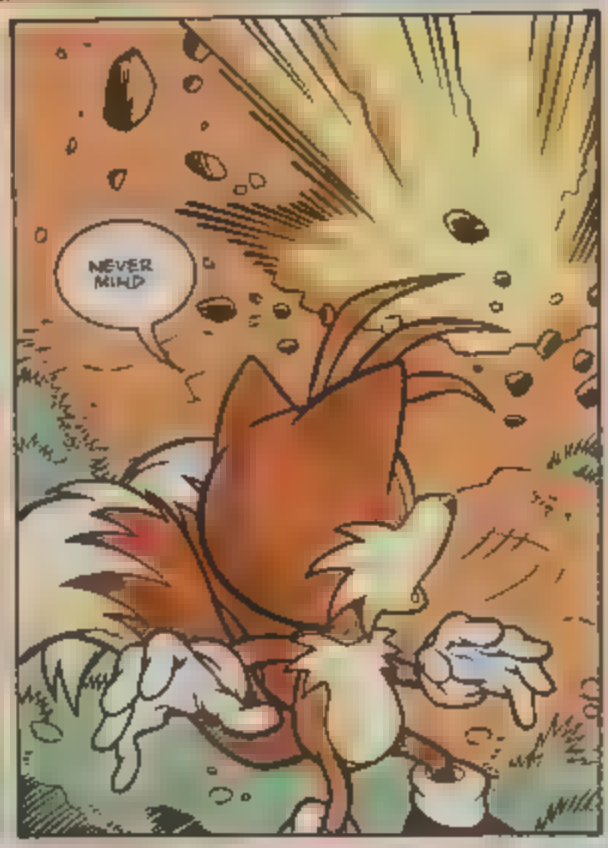
KEEP YOUR EYES SHIELDED LEST YOU GO BLIND.

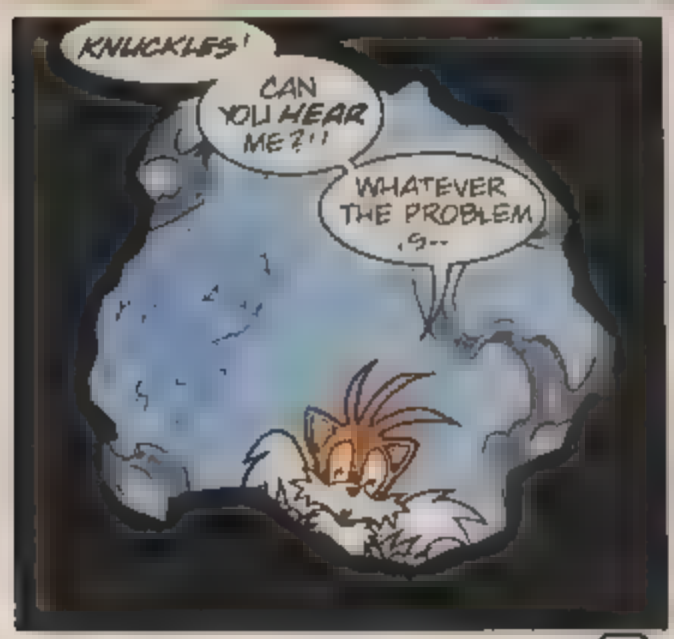
JUST LIKE THAT IT'S OVER!!

KNUCKLES... WHERE'D HE GO?!!


WHERE ELSE
--BUT THE FLOATING ISLAND?
D'OH!
EVEN I SHOULD'VE FIGURED HE'D HEAD BACK HOME!

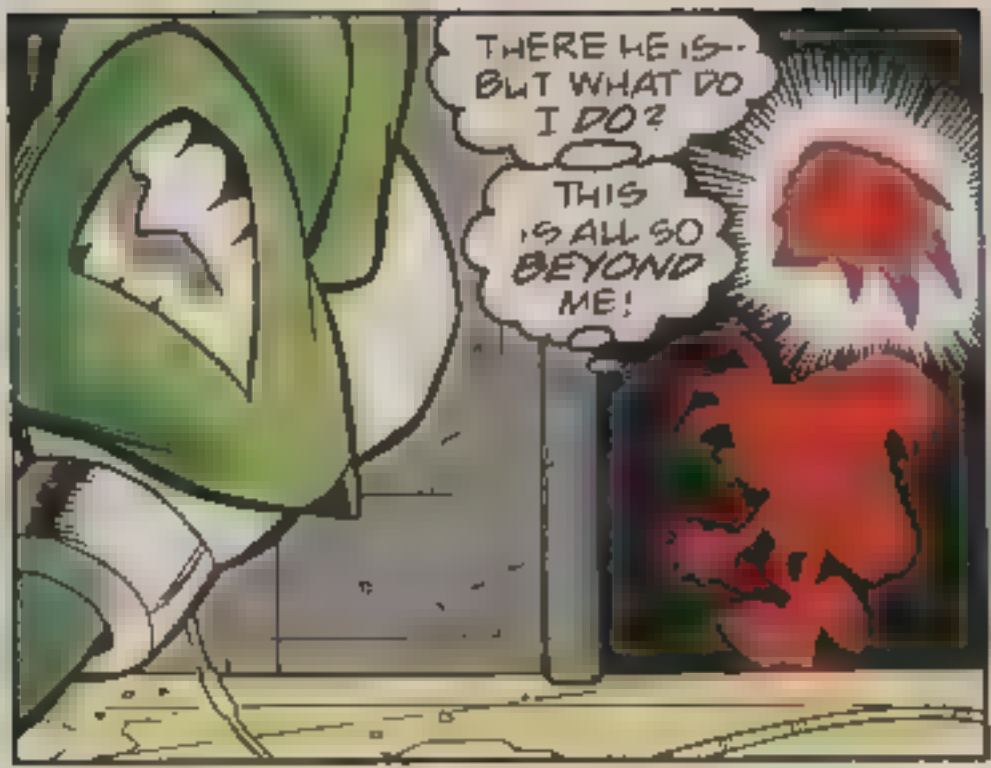

NOW THAT WE'RE IN THE BALLPARK--
--HOW ABOUT TELLING ME WHAT SECTION HE'S IN!

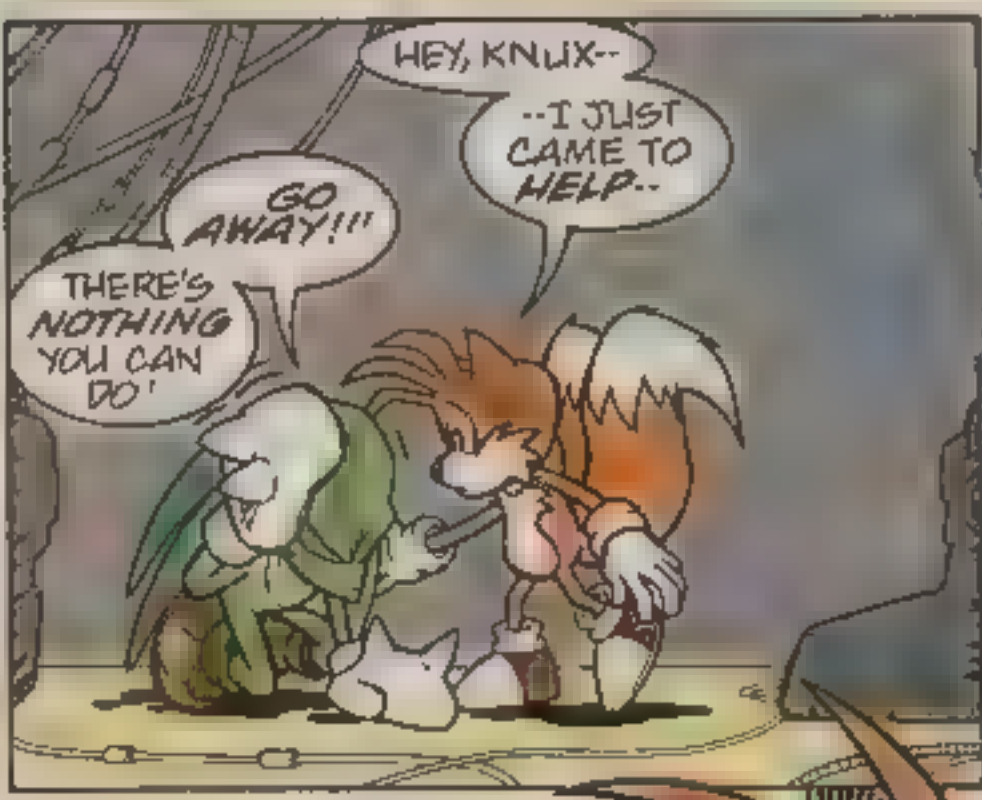

NEVER MIND


KNUCKLES!
CAN YOU HEAR ME?!!
WHATEVER THE PROBLEM IS--

I WANNA HELP!!

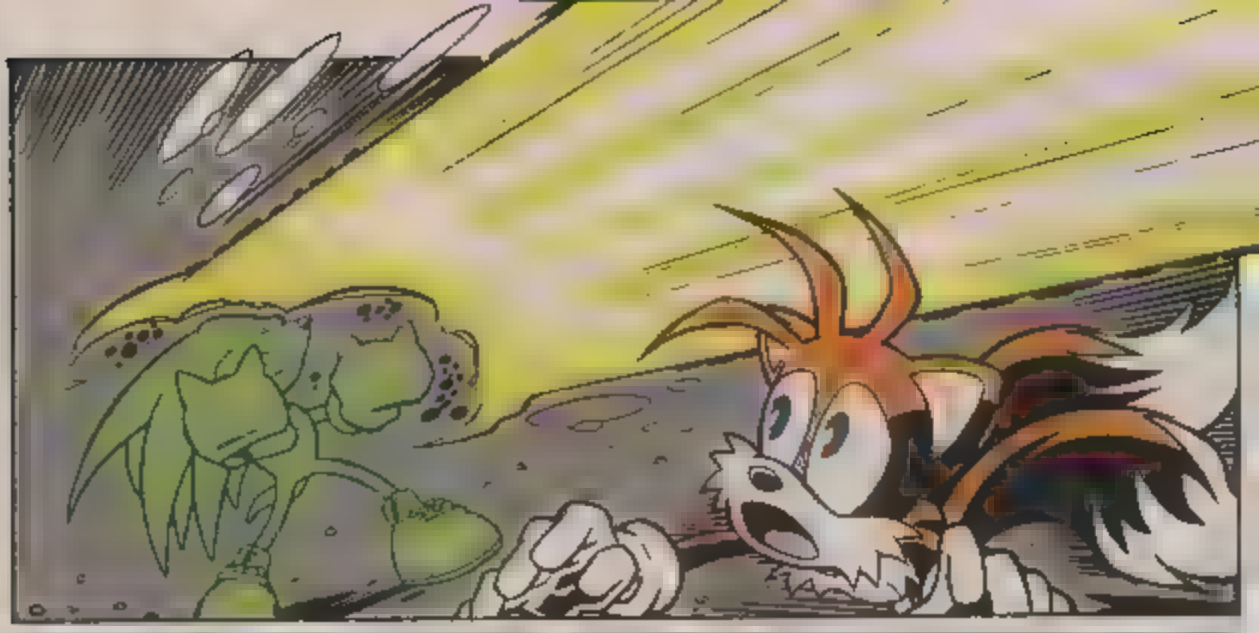
Sob...
...MAKE IT STOP... MAKE IT STOP...

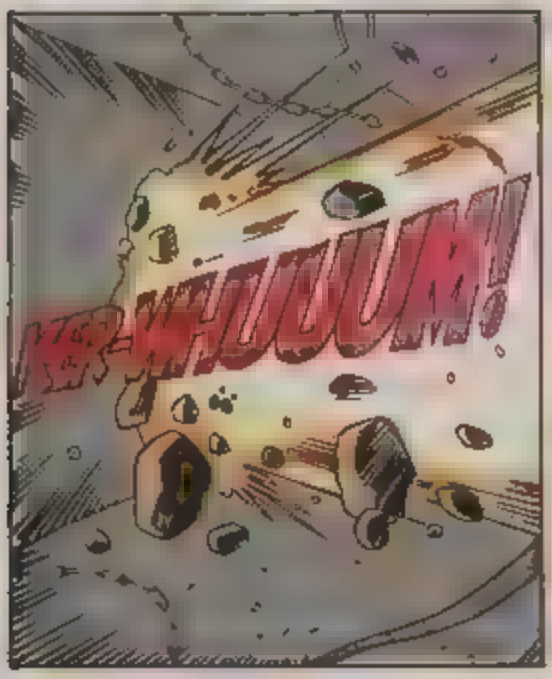

THERE HE IS-- BUT WHAT DO I DO?
THIS IS ALL SO BEYOND ME!

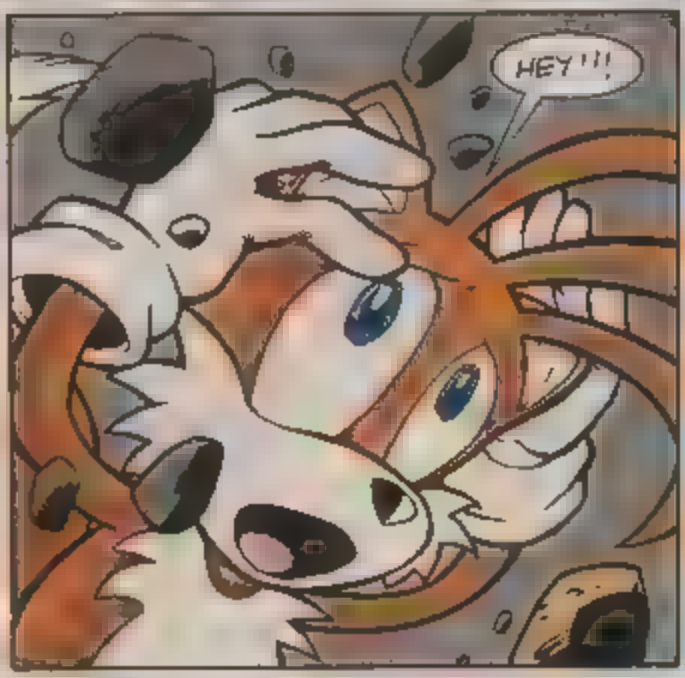

HEY, KNUX--
--I JUST CAME TO HELP--
GO AWAY!!!
THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN DO!

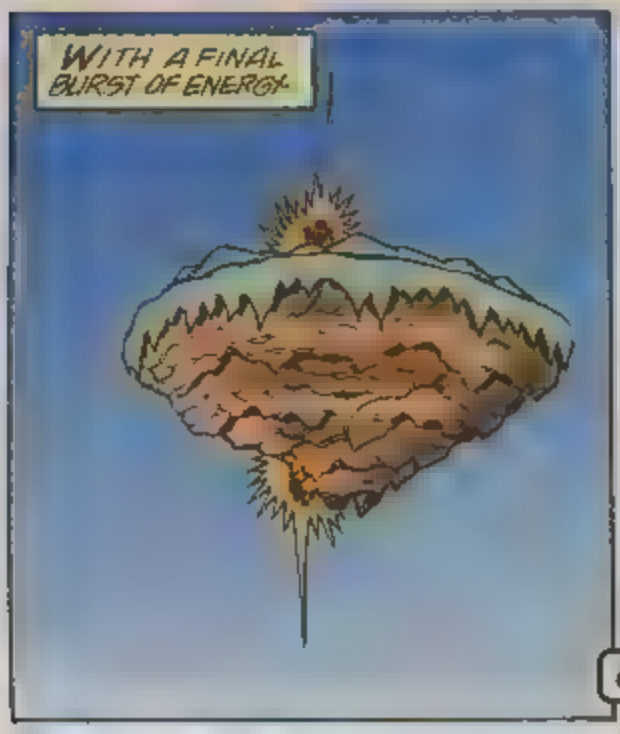
MAYBE NOT--
--BUT YOUR GREAT GRANDFATHER ATHAIR SEEMED TO THINK SO!

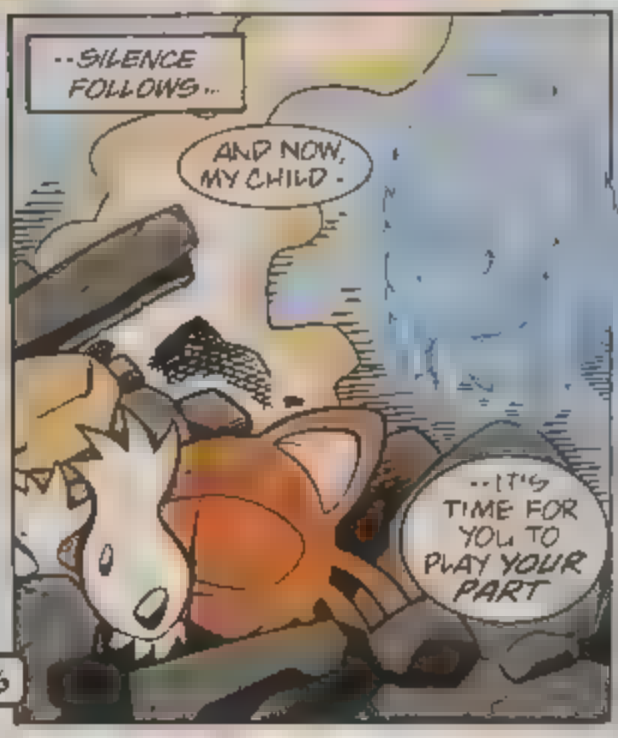
JUST LEAVE ME ALONE!!!
WOOF!




WHUUUM!


HEY!!!


WITH A FINAL BURST OF ENERGY.


..SILENCE FOLLOWS..
AND NOW, MY CHILD.
..IT'S TIME FOR YOU TO PLAY YOUR PART

BY AGGAMEMMON'S BELLS, WHO DARES DISRUPT THE ENCHANTMENT?

SURELY YOU HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN YOUR FELLOW TRAVELER?

HARDLY!

AND I SEE YOU HAVE MY NEPHEW IN TOW!

OBVIOUSLY THE VICTIM OF FOUL VILLAINY SUFFERED WHILE IN YOUR CARE!

I'LL SEE TO HIM NOW!

SOME REST, MIXED WITH A FEW POTIONS, AND HE'LL BE SOARING ONCE AGAIN!

TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE, MERLIN PROWER!

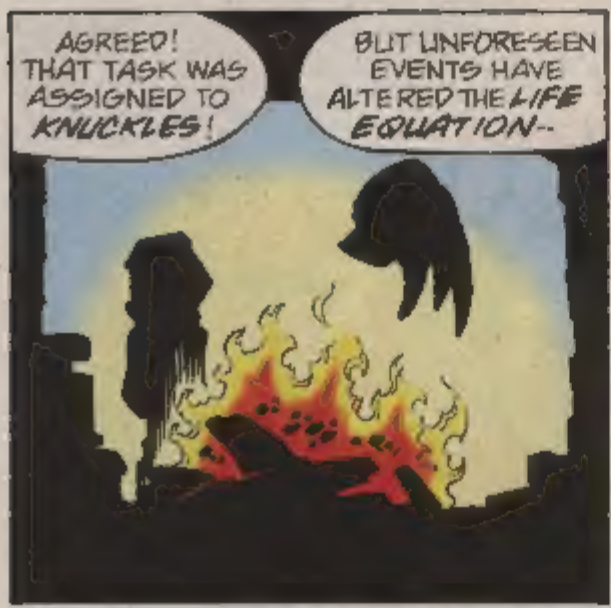
THE CHOSEN ONE IS NEEDED--

- AND YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN CALL HIM FORTH!

AND WHAT MAKES YOU THINK I WILL, ATHAIR?

HE'S BUT A MERE LAD!

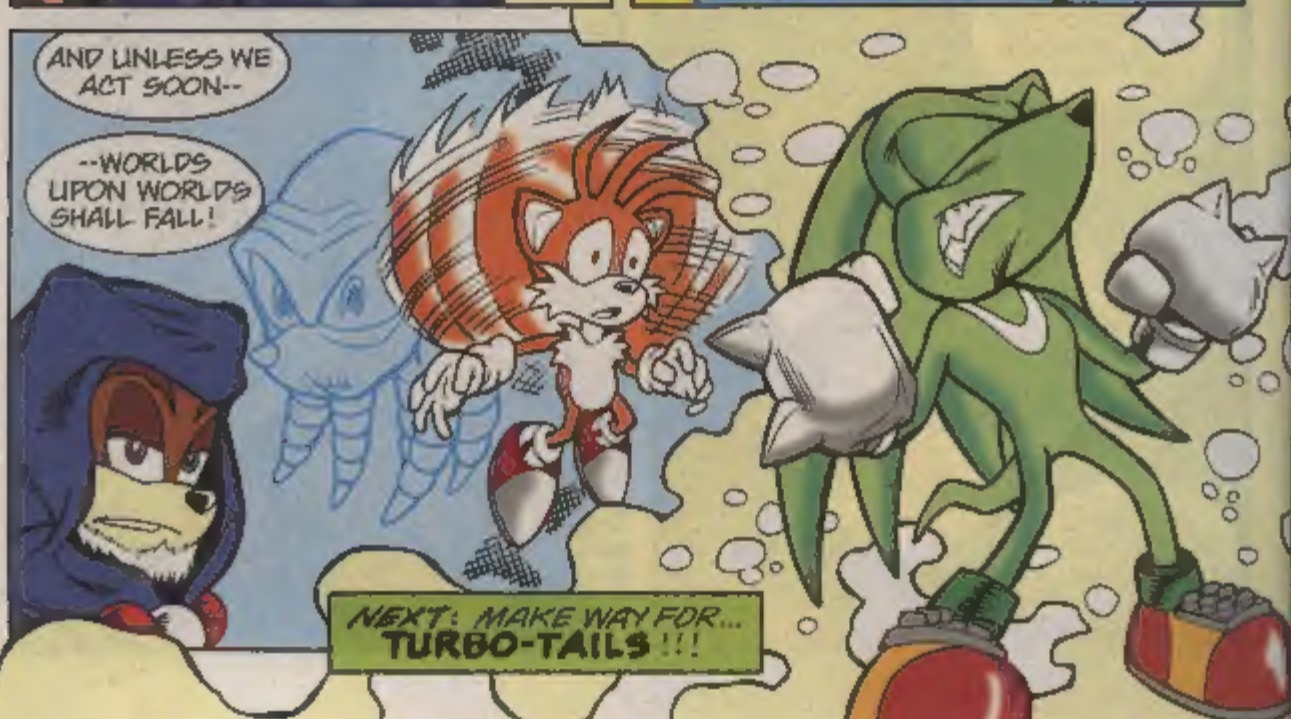
AND HIS DESTINY ISN'T TO SAVE THE ECHIDNAS FROM THEM-SELVES!!


AGREED! THAT TASK WAS ASSIGNED TO KNUCKLES!
BUT UNFORESEEN EVENTS HAVE ALTERED THE LIFE EQUATION--

--AND NOW ONLY YOUR YOUNGEST NEPHEW MAY BE ALL THAT STANDS BETWEEN DELIVERANCE OR ANNIHILATION!

HOW CAN ONE YOUNG FOX ACHIEVE THAT WHICH THE ANCIENT WALKERS CANNOT?
THE VERY CONCEPT STAGGERS THE IMAGINATION!

BECAUSE THEY ARE DYING--
--AND I AM INCAPABLE WITHOUT HIM!


AND UNLESS WE ACT SOON--
--WORLDS UPON WORLDS SHALL FALL!
NEXT: MAKE WAY FOR... TURBO-TAILS!!!

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4E3

SONIC-GRAMS

THIS JUST IN!

J.F. GABRIE
EDITOR

Now that you've enjoyed this issue, it's time to look ahead to what's coming next. Hard as it is to believe, we're about to complete our eighth year of publishing Sonic's adventures, and the best is yet to come. Even though we're only five (can you believe it?!) five issues away from our landmark 100th issue, that doesn't mean we don't plan to make each issue leading up to and beyond it special in its own way.

Aside from the surprises in the regular Sonic and Knuckles stories that await you, there's also the SONIC ADVENTURE 2 tie-in scheduled for SONIC #98, as well as... well, that would be telling. Needless to say, we're so excited ourselves that we can't wait to hear what you have to say.

I'd like to take this time to hand over the 'Sonic-Grams' reign to Ken Penders. Since he's been very proactive communicating with a number of fans online and at conventions, I felt Ken should take over the letters page and interact with you here as well. I'm still editing Sonic, so I'll pop in with an editorial from time to time. And though we didn't have the room to put in an Off Panel for this issue, it will return next month.

Catch you on the flip side!

Take it away, Ken...

Thank you, Justin. I want you to know you can reach me not only at Sonic@archiecomics.com, but also at kenpenders@kenpenders.com. Next month, I'll touch upon the fan art and other matters as well. In the meantime, how about we check out the coming attractions and dig into the mail, shall we?

Send letters to:
SONIC-GRAMS
HDS
C/O ARCHIE COMIC PUBLICATIONS, INC.
P.O. BOX #419
MAMARONECK, NY
10543-0419
E-MAIL:
jfreddyg@archiecomics.com
WEBSITE:
www.archiecomics.com
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Note: Due to the overwhelming amount of e-mail and snail mail, it is impossible for us to reply personally to each and every message. However, your opinions are important to us and each message will be read. Also, due to space limitations, some correspondence may be edited.
Thanks for understanding!

Next issue: When one of Robotnik's Shadow-Bots finds its way to Knothole kingdom, can the evil genius and his invading horde of Overlanders be far behind? What does this mean for our heroic hedgehog and his friends? Find out in "The Messenger," written by Karl Bollers, penciled by Nelson Ribeiro, and inked by Pam Eklund and Jim Amash! And be sure not to miss an all-new KNUCKLES tale, written and inked by Ken Penders with pencils by Ron Lim. SONIC THE HEDGEHOG #96 is on sale in April of 2001!

Hiya, kids! Here's a sampling of your recent Sonic-Grams:

Dear Sonic-Grams,
I just read issue #85, and it was great. I can't wait until issue #86 comes out. Anyway, I have a few questions: 1) How old is Julie-Su? 2) How old is Mina? 3) Did Lupé die? 4) Who, or what, is Mercia?
Brianna McAuley, CANADA

Sorry to make you wait between issues, Brianna! Hope it was worth it. Now, for your questions: 1-2) Julie-Su and Mina are both fifteen years old. 3) Lupé didn't die, but she was roboticized by Sonic's Uncle Chuck (who was under Robotnik's control at the time). 4) Mercia is a kingdom located in Mobius' northern hemisphere, and it's currently Amy Rose's home.

Dear Knuckles,
Sorry to hear about what happened to Echidnaopolis. Hey, it will all work out in the end. You've got to believe in yourself and your loved ones. You and your friends have survived overwhelming odds so far. This time, even though it seems like you're alone, they are present in spirit. I know in my heart, from reading your adventures, that you are stronger than you think. I'm sure fellow fans will agree. First, you've got to figure out what happened and then kick some major can once you do. All of your readers are behind you all the way! I know you are busy, but do you have time to answer a few questions? 1) Where did you first meet Julie-Su? 2) What's your most powerful move? 3) Are you and Sally still best friends? Well, that's all and I wish you luck in the future. Tell Julie-Su I said, "Hi!" :) :) :)
Tabitha Verduzco, (age 19), Freeport, PA

Knuckles appreciates your encouragement, Tabitha. Even though his loved ones are gone, it appears our able echidna still has many fans who are rooting for him. To answer your inquiries: 1) Knuckles and Julie-Su first met in KNUCKLES THE ECHIDNA #5, when Julie-Su was still a member of Enerjak's Dark Legion. 2) Knuckles has many powerful moves... some of which you'll be seeing in upcoming issues. 3) Knuckles and Sally were never really best friends, so much as they were "special" friends.

Dear Sonic-Grams,
My name is Marion. I'm eleven years old, and I'm in the fifth grade. My favorite comic books are SONIC and KNUCKLES, and they are a fun read for kids my age. They inspire me to do more reading. Thanks for reading this letter.
Marion Williams, Suisun, CA

Thanks for writing in, Marion!

Dear Sonic-Grams,
I have a couple of questions for you: 1) In the SONIC 3 and SONIC & KNUCKLES video games, when I get the chaos emeralds, Sonic turns into Super Sonic and Knuckles transforms into Super Knuckles. When they get the emeralds in the comic, Sonic becomes Super Sonic, but Knuckles becomes Hyper Knuckles instead. Why? 2) I know I missed my chance to become a freedom fighter many, many, years ago...but is it too late to become one now?
Matt Helmuth, (age 14), Goshen, IN

1) Just one of the many differences between the comic book continuity and the game continuity, Matt! 2) It's never too late to join the ranks—consider yourself an official freedom fighter.

Dear Sonic-Grams,
What's up? I love SEGA Dreamcast. I play it almost every day! I have some questions:
1) Does Sonic love Amy?
2) Why is Tails younger than Amy all of a sudden?
3) Was Tikal Knuckles' sister?
4) Who is Sonic's best friend?
That's all, and thanks!
Amanda Jones, (age 9), Lakewood, CO

1) Sonic loves Amy the way an older brother loves a younger sister, Amanda. 2) Amy aged several years after making a wish upon the Ring of Acorns. 3) Tikal and Knuckles aren't brother and sister. She lived many centuries before he was born. 4) Sonic's best friend is, of course, Tails...

Dear Sonic-Grams,
I've got some questions: 1) What happened to Knuckles' family? 2) What happened to Julie-Su? 3) On the cover of SONIC #88, Uncle Chuck has trapped Sonic in the roboticizer. Will he be roboticized? By the way, that cover was awesome!
Sean Gelish, (age 11), Plainview, NY

1) Knuckles' family, and all of Echidnaopolis, were shunted into another zone reality due to the Dark Legion, Sean. 2) As if that weren't enough to upset a growing echidna, the Dark Legion kidnapped Julie-Su to boot! 3) By now you know that Sonic is still himself.

Dear Sonic-Grams,
I'm a new fan and intend to be writing to you a lot. SONIC THE HEDGEHOG #85 was the first issue I ever read, and I can't wait to read issue #86. But there's one little problem. I'd like to read the very first issue, to find out how it all began. Please send me an order form for issue #1. Thank you very much.
Soriah D. Chavel, Brooklyn, NY

Early back-issues can be pricey, Soriah, but we suggest taking a look at our subscriptions' page. You'll find our SONIC & KNUCKLES COLLECTOR SETS, hardcovers that contain twelve consecutive issues of the regular comic. As for getting a copy of SONIC THE HEDGEHOG #1, we suggest "SONIC FIRSTS," which collects the first appearances of Sonic, Tails and Knuckles.

Thanks to everyone who wrote in this time around (you know who you are). See ya next month when we review our latest batch of mail.

KEEP ON JUICIN'!

Cover illustration by Patrick Spaziante and Harvey Mercadoocasio with Colors and separations by Josh D. Ray. Edit page layout & design by Joe Pep